AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended): A method for masking the taste of a drug comprising administering to a subject an oral administration preparation consisting of a drug having at least one basic group in its structure thereby rendering an unpleasant taste, which is effected by including a sugar alcohol having a heat of dissolution of -20 cal/g or less, ~~and~~ a pH adjusting agent and optionally aspartame or L-menthol, or both aspartame and L-menthol , wherein the sugar alcohol is erythritol, and wherein the drug having at least one basic group in its structure is selected from the group consisting of cimetidine, famotidine, nizatidine, acetaminophen, epirizole, pyrazinamide, caffeine, ethionamide, carvedilol, aminophylline, sulpyrine, theophylline, diphenhydramine, metoclopramide, phenylbutazone, phenobarbital, chloramphenicol, tranexamic acid, epsilon-aminocaproic acid, gamma-aminobutyric acid, nalidixic acid, levofloxacin, ofloxacin, L-trytophan, L-leucine, L-isoleucine, ampicillin, enoxacin, ticlopidine hydrochloride, ranitidine hydrochloride, roxatidine acetate HCl, imipramine hydrochloride, ephedrine hydrochloride, chlorpromazine hydrochloride, diphenhydramine hydrochloride, tetracycline hydrochloride, doxycycline hydrochloride, naphazoline hydrochloride, noscapine hydrochloride, papaverine hydrochloride, hydralazine hydrochloride, dextromethorphan hydrobromide, timepidium bromide, chlorpheniramine maleate, alimemazine tartarate,

pilsicainide hydrochloride, N-methylscopolamine methylsulfate, clopidogrel sulfate, cinepazide maleate, cetraxate hydrochloride, arginine hydrochloride, histidine hydrochloride, lysine hydrochloride, lysine acetate, corydalis tuber, phellodendri cortex, coptidis rhizoma, strychni semen, ephedrae harba, ipecac, scopoliae rhizoma, belladonna leaf and sophorae radix.

20-30. (canceled).

31. (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the sugar alcohol is added in an amount of 40 to 70 % by weight based on the total weight of the oral administration preparation.

32. (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the drug is a mixture of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of cimetidine, famotidine, nizatidine, and ranitidine hydrochloride.

33. (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the drug is a mixture of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of cimetidine, tranexamic acid and cetraxate hydrochloride.

34. (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the sugar alcohol having a heat of dissolution of -20 cal/g or less is from 0.1 to 50 parts by weight based on 1 part by weight of the drug having an unpleasant taste.

35. (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the sugar alcohol having a heat of dissolution of -20 cal/g or less is from 5 to 10 parts by weight based on 1 part by weight of the drug.

36. (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein pH value of a 1% (w/v) aqueous solution or 1% (w/v) aqueous suspension of the pH adjusting agent is equal to or higher than the pKa value of the drug or equal to or higher than the pH value of a 1% (w/v) aqueous solution or 1% (w/v) aqueous suspension of the drug.

37. (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the pH adjusting agent is a mixture of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate anhydrous and precipitated calcium carbonate.

38. (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the pH adjusting agent is from 0.1 to 200 parts by weight based on 1 part by weight of the drug.

39. (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the pH adjusting agent is from 0.5 to 7 parts by weight based on 1 part by weight of the drug.

40. (canceled).

41. (previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the oral administration preparation is in a dosage form selected from the group consisting of tablets, granules, powders, fine subtilaes, solutions and syrups.

42. (previously presented): A taste masking oral administration preparation for improving the taste of a drug, consisting of a drug having at least one basic group in its structure, thereby rendering an unpleasant taste, a sugar alcohol having a heat of dissolution of -20 cal/g or less and a pH adjusting agent wherein the sugar alcohol is erythritol, and wherein the drug having at least one basic group in its structure is selected from the group consisting of cimetidine, famotidine, nizatidine, acetaminophen, epirizole, pyrazinamide, caffeine, ethionamide, carvedilol, aminophylline, sulpyrine, theophylline, diphenhydramine, metoclopramide, phenylbutazone, phenobarbital, chloramphenicol, tranexamic acid, epsilon-aminocaproic acid, gamma-aminobutyric acid, nalidixic acid, levofloxacin, ofloxacin, L-trytophan, L-leucine, L-isoleucine, ampicillin, enoxacin, ticlopidine hydrochloride, ranitidine hydrochloride, roxatidine acetate HCl, imipramine hydrochloride, ephedrine hydrochloride, chlorpromazine hydrochloride, diphenhydramine hydrochloride, tetracycline hydrochloride, doxycycline hydrochloride, naphazoline hydrochloride, noscapine hydrochloride, papaverine hydrochloride, hydralazine hydrochloride, dextromethorphan hydrobromide, timepidium bromide, chlorpheniramine maleate, alimemazine tartarate, pilsicainide hydrochloride, N-methylscopolamine methylsulfate, clopidogrel sulfate, cinepazide maleate, cetraxate hydrochloride, arginine hydrochloride, histidine hydrochloride, lysine hydrochloride, lysine

acetate, corydalis tuber, phellodendri cortex, coptidis rhizoma, strychni semen, ephedrae harba, ipecac, scopoliae rhizoma, belladonna leaf and sophorae radix, wherein the unpleasant taste of the drug is improved according to the method of claim 19.

43. (canceled).

44. (previously presented): The oral administration preparation according to claim 42, wherein the sugar alcohol is added in an amount of 40 to 70 % by weight based on the total weight of the oral administration preparation.

45. (previously presented): The oral administration preparation according to claim 42, wherein the drug is a mixture of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of cimetidine, famotidine, nizatidine, and ranitidine hydrochloride.

46. (previously presented): The oral administration preparation according to claim 42, wherein the drug is a mixture of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of cimetidine, tranexamic acid and cetraxate hydrochloride.

47. (previously presented): The oral administration preparation according to claim 42, wherein the sugar alcohol having a heat of dissolution of -20 cal/g or less is from 0.1 to 50 parts by weight based on 1 part by weight of the drug having an unpleasant taste.

48. (previously presented): The oral administration preparation according to claim 42, wherein the sugar alcohol having a heat of dissolution of -20 cal/g or less is from 5 to 10 parts by weight based on 1 part by weight of the drug.

49. (previously presented): The oral administration preparation according to claim 42, wherein pH value of a 1% (w/v) aqueous solution or 1% (w/v) aqueous suspension of the pH adjusting agent is equal to or higher than the pKa value of the drug or equal to or higher than the pH value of a 1% (w/v) aqueous solution or 1% (w/v) aqueous suspension of the drug.

50. (previously presented): The oral administration preparation according to claim 42, wherein the pH adjusting agent is a mixture of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of sodium bicarbonate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate anhydrous and precipitated calcium carbonate.

51. (previously presented): The oral administration preparation according to claim 42, wherein the pH adjusting agent is from 0.1 to 200 parts by weight based on 1 part by weight of the drug.

52. (previously presented): The oral administration preparation according to claim 42, wherein the pH adjusting agent is from 0.5 to 7 parts by weight based on 1 part by weight of the drug.

53. (canceled).

54. (previously presented): The oral administration preparation according to claim 42, in a dosage form selected from the group consisting of tablets, granules, powders, fine subtilaes, solutions and syrups.